

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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R 231200Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9314

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 202

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: OVIP (ROCKEFELLER, DAVID) XF XA SU

SUBJ: NIMEIRI'S COMMENTS ON AREA AFFAIRS

SUMMARY. IN PRIVATE COMMENTS TO DAVID ROCKEFELLER, NIMEIRI WAS BEARISH RE SETTLEMENT PALESTINIAN ISSUE AND SIAD HE FELT EGYPTIAN REGIONAL INFLUENCE NOW EBBING IN CONTRAST TO BURGEONING FINANCIAL STRENGTH SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN. THIS AND OTHER OLYMPIAN UTTERANCES REVEAL NIMEIRI'S SIMPLISTIC APPROACH TO REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND AN ALMOST PSYCHOPATHIC CONCERN AT SOVIET "HAND" IN AREA DEVELOPMENTS. END SUMMARY

1. DURING WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION AT HIS DINNER FOR DAVID ROCKEFELLER JAN 22, PRESIDENT NIMEIRI MADE NUMBER OF INTERESTING, AND IN SEVERAL CASES, SURPRISING COMMENTS ON NEIGHBORING STATES AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS.

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IN PARTICULAR, HE OPINED EGYPT NOW CONSIDERABLY WEAKER

VIS-A-VIS OTHER AREA STATES THAN HERETOFORE. ONLY THING WHICHGIVES EGYPT SOME CONTINUING PRIMACY IS EXISTENCE WAR WITH ISRAEL. OTHERWISE SADAT NOT IN STRONG POSITION AS INDICATED BY RECENT INTERNAL DISTURBANCES WHICH NIMEIRI SPECULATED AT LEAST IN PART STIRRED UP BY RUSSIANS.

2. IN CONTRAST EGYPT, NIMEIRI THOUGH SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN MUCH STRONGER. THEY NOW DISPOSED MONEY WHICH WAS AVENUE TO AREA INFLUENCE AS WELL AS RAPID INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT. SIMILARLY, HE FELT IRAQ BECOMING MORE CONSERVATIVE AS ITS OIL INCOME MOUNTS, WHEREAS SYRIA MAY NOW BE MORE RADICAL.

3. ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE, NIMEIRI CHARACTERIZED ARAFAT AS "FIGUREHEAD" PRESIDING OVER QUASI-INDEPENDENT SPLINTER GROUPS. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THESE COULD BE UNITED SINCE "UNFORTUNATELY" SOME ARAB COUNTRIES ARE CONTINUING TO BANKROLL THEM INDIVIDUALLY. NIMEIRI THOUGHT ONLY CHANCE FOR UNIFYING PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT WOULD BE IF GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE COULD BE CREATED PROMPTLY AND SOON THEREAFTER TAKE OVER SOME GEOGRAPHIC BASE, SUCH AS GAZA STRIP. HE SPOKE OF EVENTUAL NEED ESTABLISH BINATIONAL STATE IN PALESTINE AND SAID THAT HIS RECENT PUBLIC OFFER TO SUDANESE JEWS TO RETURN HERE HAD HAD SOME POSITIVE RESPONSE (FONMIN KHALID EXPLAINED THIS RELATES TO WELL-TO-DO SUDANESE JEWS LIVING IN GENEVA AND LONDON, WHO HAVE ASKED DETAILS FROM GOS MISSION THERE, NOT TO THOSE WHO MAY HAVE EMIGRATED TO ISRAEL). NIMEIRI FELT KING HUSSEIN MIGHT SURVIVE FOR SOME PERIOD BUT THAT, WHENEVER HE GOES, JORDAN WILL CEASE TO EXIST AS A SEPARATE STATE. IT WOULD EITHER BE PARTITIONED BY ITS NEIGHBORS OR BECOME A PALESTINIAN REPUBLIC, BUT HASHEMITE DYNASTY WOULD END.

4. ON AFRICAN ISSUES, NIMEIRI SAID HE FELT SOMALIA AND UGANDA NOW TO SOME EXTENT UNDER SOVIET INFLUENCE. HE NOTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT SOMALIS HAVE BEEN QUIET ON OGADEN ISSUE WITH ETHIOPIA SINCE ADDIS COUP, OPINING THIS MIGHT REFLECT SOVIET ADVICE. HE RECALLED THAT, WHILE EVEN PEKING HAD ISSUED STATEMENT CRITICAL OF NOVEMBER BLOOD-

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BATH IN ADDIS, MOSCOW HAD REMAINED SILENT. HE SAID THAT AMIN IS NOW EXPERIENCEING GREAT DIFFICULTIES.

5. COMMENT: FOREGOING VIEWS WERE IN LARGE PART ELICITED BY ROCKEFELLER'S QUERIES AND SHOULD BE REGARDED AS BULL SESSION OPINIONS RATHER THAN INTEGRATED EXPRESSION NIMEIRI'S CONSIDERED VIEWS. AT SAME TIME, THEY DO REVEAL HIS CONTINUING RESERVATIONS REGARDING SADAT'S EGYPT (DESPITE CONTINUING

FLOW OF DELEGATIONS AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION
MISSIONS BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN CAIRO AND KHARTOUM),
AS WELL AS HIS ALMOST PATHOLOGICAL SUSPICION OF SOVIET
"HAND" IN AREA DEVELOPMENTS. NOTHING IN HIS REMARKS
SUGGESTED THAT HE CONTEMPLATING ANY MAJOR NEW
INITIATIVE WITH RESPECT EITHER SUDANESE MEDIATION ERITREAN
ISSUE OR NIMEIRI'S OWN SOMEWHAT ABORTIVE
CONCILIATION EFFORTS VIS-A-VIS QADHAFI AND SADAT.
BREWER

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